59

DECLASSIFIED

INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

ACTION COPY

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SECRET

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Action 41

Info 88

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OO RUEHC
DE RUMJIR 052 1821115
ZNY SSSSS
O P 011100Z JUL 67 ZFF4
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO RUHHHOA/CINCPAC
STATE GRNC
BT
S E C R E T SAIGON 52

1967 JUL 1 AM 7 29

SAIGON 52 7 1 67

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Joan Zeiberg DATE 10/5/81
RDS ☐ or XDS ☒ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED ☑ RELEASABLE ☑
RELEASE DENIED ☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

EXDIS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

REF SAIGON 29258

1. I CALLED ON GENERAL THIEU AT NOON JULY 1 AND SPENT ABOUT ONE HOUR WITH HIM. THIEU WAS IN A RELAXED AND CHEERFUL MOOD. I EXPRESSED MY SATISFACTION THAT A DECISION HAD BEEN REACHED ON ONE MILITARY SLATE.

2. THIEU RECOUNTED THE EVENTS THAT LED UP TO THE JUNE 30

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DECISION, REPEATING MUCH OF WHAT KY HAD SAID TO ME THE DAY BEFORE. THIEU SAID THAT THE TALKS AMONG THE GENERALS HAD BEEN EXTREMELY FRANK. HE HAD TOLD THEM THAT SOME OF THE GENERALS HAD NOT GIVEN HIM SUFFICIENT CONSIDERATION AND HAD HURT HIS FEELINGS DEEPLY. THIEU SAID THAT HE HAD FINALLY INFORMED THE OTHER GENERALS THAT HE PROPOSED TO RESIGN FROM THE ARMY AND RUN AS A CIVILIAN CANDIDATE, BUT THIS HAD BROUGHT A STRONG NEGATIVE REACTION ON THE GROUNDS IT WOULD DIVIDE THE MILITARY SERIOUSLY. THIEU REPLIED TO THEM THAT HE HAD NOT BEEN THE ONE WHO HAD DIVIDED THE ARMED FORCES AND THAT IT WAS THE ACTIONS OF OTHERS AMONG THEM THAT HAD LED TO THIS SITUATION. HE SAID THAT HE HAD MENTIONED GENERAL LOAN AND GENERAL NGUYEN BAO TRI SPECIFICALLY.

3. FOLLOWING THESE DISCUSSIONS ACCORDING TO THIEU, THE GENERALS HAD INSISTED THAT HE MUST REMAIN IN THE ARMED FORCES. THIEU SAID THAT HE WOULD AGREE TO DO SO ONLY ON THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS: (1) THAT THE SOLIDARITY OF THE ARMED FORCES WOULD BE MAINTAINED AND (2) THAT THE ELECTIONS WOULD BE COMPLETELY

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FREE AND FAIR. HE HAD THEN DECLARED THAT IT WAS NOT IMPORTANT WHETHER THE MILITARY CANDIDATE OR A CIVILIAN CANDIDATE WAS ELECTED PROVIDED IT WAS A FREE ELECTION. OTHERWISE IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO UNIFY THE PEOPLE. THIEU REPEATED THIS POINT SEVERAL TIMES TO ME AND SAID THAT HE HAD SPOKEN TO THE PROVINCE CHIEFS IN THE SAME SENSE.

4. I EMPHASIZED TO THIEU THAT IF THE THIEU-KY TICKET WERE ELECTED, IT WOULD BE IMPORTANT TO BROADEN THE GOVERNMENT AND TO HAVE A SUBSTANTIAL CIVILIAN ELEMENT IN IT. THIEU SAID HE ENTIRELY AGREED. HE BELIEVED THAT THERE SHOULD BE A CIVILIAN PRIME MINISTER AND MOST OF THE CABINET POSTS SHOULD BE FILLED BY GOOD CIVILIANS. HE THOUGHT ONLY THE DEFENSE, REVOLUTIONARY DEVELOPMENT, AND PERHAPS INFORMATION/CHIEU HOI PORTFOLIOS NEED BE MILITARY.

5. THIEU ALSOSTRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF AN INCREASED PACIFICATION EFFORT. HE THOUGHT THAT DIVISION COMMANDERS SHOULD PLAY MUCH MORE ACTIVE ROLES AND PROVINCE AND DISTRICT

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CHIEF STAFFS SHOULD BE ENLARGED IN ORDER FOR THEM TO COPE WITH THIS PRIORITY PROBLEM SATISFACTORILY.

BUNKER
BT

NOTE: PASSED S/S-O AT 8:10 AM 7/1/67
PASSED WHITE HOUSE AT 8:26 PM 7/1/67

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